

APR 24 2007

PATENT**Case No. 8627/096****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of)	
)	Art Unit: 3751
Fred T. Parker)	
)	Examiner: A. Ramana
Serial No.: 09/815,567)	
)	
Filed: March 23, 2001)	
)	
For: INTRODUCER SHEATH)	
)	

RULE 1.132 DECLARATION

I, Brett O. Baker, declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and competent to make this Declaration.
2. Since May 1977, I have been employed by Sabin Corporation, a subsidiary of Cook Incorporated ("Cook"), the assignee of the above-referenced United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/815,567. Sabin Corporation is widely recognized in the medical field as a leading manufacturer of high quality precision braided reinforced structures.
3. During my employment at Sabin Corporation, I have received nearly thirty (30) years of extensive experience in the operation, maintenance engineering and development of braiding machines of the type used to produce reinforced medical devices.
4. In my experience, annealed (low tensile strength) austenitic stainless steel wire is typically used to form a braid in a reinforced medical device due to its malleable properties. During the process of braiding or weaving the wires of the braid in the opposing directions, the wire will form or shape by bending at the crossing point of the wires. This creates a tight braid that is less likely to move or be displaced than if a higher tensile strength wire is used. Harder or higher tensile wires resist bending at the crossing points, and thus, do not exhibit a "formed" condition.

Serial No. 08/725,936

Filed: October 7, 1996

5. On the other hand, a coil reinforcement for a sheath is typically formed using harder (higher tensile strength) wire. This wire requires higher pressure to make the material bend and hold its shape. A coil is not dependent on an opposing wire or crossing point to reinforce its shape, but rather on the spring tension of the wire itself.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this Declaration was executed by me on April 24, 2007, at Bloomington, Indiana.

Brett O. Baker 04/24/07
Brett O. Baker